

a cold, rainy December day marked the beginning of a long period of service to the people of Wasatch County.⁶ He chose Thomas Giles and Henry S. Alexander as his counselors. Midway had by this time come into being as an amalgamation of the upper and lower Snake Creek settlements and Sidney Epperson was appointed as Presiding Elder there with David Van Wagonen and Ira Jacobs as counselors. In 1870 Elder Epperson was released and replaced by Henry S. Alexander.⁷

By the summer of 1887 the increase in population warranted the establishment of a stake and the reorganization of the communities into wards. Apostles John Taylor and Franklin D. Richards came to Heber and held a conference on the fourteenth and fifteenth of July.

⁶*Ibid.*

⁷Huber, op. cit., p. 2.



Ann Murdock

Margaret Muir

Mary McMullin

Bishop Hatch was then appointed as the first stake president over the new Wasatch Stake of Zion.

Abram Hatch, the son of Hezekiah and Aldura Hatch, was born January 3, 1830, in Lincoln, Vermont. When he was ten years old his father's entire family was converted to Mormonism, and in the fall of 1840 they moved to Nauvoo. Abram became a member of the Nauvoo Legion, and later in 1846, when the Mormons were forced to flee Nauvoo, he served as a captain of ferry boats across the Missouri.⁸ In 1850 he immigrated to Utah and settled in the town of Lehi. He married Permelia Jane Lott in 1852 and rapidly became known as an enterprising and industrious young man. In Lehi the young Hatch family farmed, raised stock, and ran a hotel successfully.⁹ He also began buying and freighting merchandise across the plains.

Brigham Young called him on a mission to Great Britain in 1864, and upon his return in 1867 sent him to Wasatch County. He enjoyed a reputation for industriousness, and took care to encourage others to avoid idleness. He always had a hammer and nails with him as he traveled the county roads in his buggy, and whenever he passed a fence that needed mending he stopped to fix it.¹⁰

For thirty-three years he was the head of Wasatch County. Together with his ecclesiastical duties he was probate judge for six years and a member of the Utah Territorial Legislature for twenty-three years. While in the legislature he introduced the first bills for public maintenance of common schools and woman suffrage.¹¹ Although polygamy was practiced by the Mormons during this period Abram Hatch never took a second wife.

⁸Andrew Jensen, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia* (Salt Lake: Deseret News Press: 1901), I, 385.

⁹*Ibid.*

¹⁰Statement by Emma Hatch Wherritt, personal interview, 1951.

¹¹*Deseret News*, September 7, 1917.

Relief Society presidents in Wasatch Stake

WASATCH STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY

The first Wasatch Stake Relief Society was organized Sept. 3, 1879, under the direction of Eliza R. Snow and Emmeline B. Wells of the Relief Society general presidency. This was not the first Relief Society organization in the valley, however, for Bishop Abram Hatch had established a Relief Society in the Heber Ward ten years earlier in June, 1869.

Margaret Muir was president of the ward Society, with Ann Murdoch and Mary McMullin as counselors. Forty members were enrolled in that first group.

When the stake organization was effected Emma Brown was chosen as president. She served for 19 years, with Sarah Alexander, Mary Daybell, Mary Bronson, Avis N. Bronson, Mary McMullin, Josephine Cluff Jones, Hannah Harbour, Sarah Cummings and Rhoda Ohlwiler as her counselors during that period.

The early pioneering days were difficult for the Relief Society sisters. In addition to establishing their own individual homes they had to go into the homes of others in caring for the poor, nursing the sick and making burial clothing for those who had passed away. To raise funds for their Society they stored wheat that had been gleaned from the fields, sold rags and sold their Sunday eggs.

The second Relief Society president was Annie R. Duke. Her counselors were Elizabeth H. Murdock, Lavisa Alexander and Sarah K. Duke.

In 1910 Johanna E. Jensen was called as stake Relief Society president. Her counselors were Margaret Murdock and Sophia Luke with Carlie Clegg Tidwell as secretary and Mima Broadbent, treasurer.

The next reorganization took place in 1917 when Sophia Luke was called as president. Clara Clyde, Mima Broadbent and Emma Fortie were her counselors during the three years that she served.

Mima Broadbent was sustained as president in 1920 and chose Clara

p 60



Margaret Muir



Emma Brown



Annie R. Duke



Johanna E. Jensen



Sophia Luke



Mima Broadbent



Nellie C. DeGraff



Violet Olpin



Ruth Mae Witt



Mina Giles

→ Ethel Lindsay
Broadbent
↓
Donna Buehler
Thacker